

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047050  
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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON 9470

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047050

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 01739 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 16.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 01739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: RFE/RL TRANSMITTERS

REF: STATE 033655

1. I DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ON FEB . 16  
RADIO LIBERTY (RL) OPERATIONS IN SPAIN. I OUTLINED TO  
HIM OPTION ONE AND EXPLAINED THE REASON WHY WE WERE  
ANXIOUS TO HAVE NEW TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN AND A LONG  
TERM AGREEMENT. I TOLD HIM WHAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN  
THE WAY OF CONSTRUCTION AND THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL  
BENEFITS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO SPAIN AND THE LOCAL  
COMMUNITY AT PALS. I REMINDED OREJA OF THE GREAT  
IMPORTANCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ATTACHED  
TO THE RL OPERATION AND SAID THAT IN FORTHCOMING BUDGET  
HEARINGS ON RFE/RL THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSIONS.  
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2. OREJA SAID THAT WHILE HE WOULD OF COURSE BE WILLING  
TO TAKE UP OPTION ONE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, HE FRANKLY  
FELT THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO DO SO INCE IT COULD  
BRING ABOUT A FULL SCALE DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF RL  
IN SPAIN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE RECALLED THE DECISION  
THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOS OVER FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN

HE HAD BEEN INFORMATION UNDER SECRETARY, TO SEEK A CLOSING OUT OF RL. HE FEARED THAT SOME MINISTERS MIGHT WANT TO PRESS FOR CLOSURE.

3. I THEN ASKED OREJA WHETHER OPTION TWO WOULD NOT OFFER A WAY AROUND THIS SINCE WE WOULD NOT BE ASKING FOR LONG TERM AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME BUT RATHER AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AT SOME POINT WE WOULD AGREE TO NEGOTIATE A LONG TERM AGREEMENT. I POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THIS OPTION WE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN CONCURRENCE FROM APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BUT WE COULD ONLY DO THIS IF THE GOS AGREED THAT THIS WAS A VIABLE OPTION. OREJA INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER UNDER TVSQTPUBLIC. (AS RECEIVED) I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT THERE WAS LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD BE KEPT QUIET SINCE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE INSTALLATION.

4. OREJA SAID THAT HE WOULD STRONGLY URGE US TO LEAVE MATTERS AS THEY NOW STAND. HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN RL CONTINUING TO OPERATE AT PALS WITHOUT AGREEMENT. HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR US OFFICIALLY TO SEEK ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT TACIT ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS FORMALLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT EITHER OPTION ONE OR OPTION TWO IF THAT WAS WHAT WE DESIRED.

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5. I THANKED OREJA FOR HIS ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION WHICH I SAID I WOULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON. I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIS ADVICE AND LET MATTERS REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE NOW. HOWEVER, SHOULD IT BE DETERMINED THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THE QUESTION FURTHER, I WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

6. COMMENT. THE DISCUSSION CAME OUT PRETTY MUCH AS I EXPECTED IT WOULD. ALTHOUGH I WOULD OF COURSE BE WILLING TO GO BACK TO OREJA TO ASK HIM FOR AN OFFICIAL GOS REE ACTION TO EITHER OPTION ONE OF TWO, I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS COURSE OF ACTION. I REALIZE THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING ADDITIONAL TRANSMITTERS AT PALS BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WE WOULD BE BETTER OFF LETTING PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS STAND. STABLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRANSMITTERS, RADIO BROADCASTING, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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